



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CYPRUS

March 7, 2008, No. 68

Organizing Garbage: Nicosia School Begins to Separate Waste

With a grant from the SAVE program, the Biologists Association and a local Nicosia high school are implementing a multifaceted project to raise awareness about the need to decrease waste and to make waste separation and recycling part of students' everyday lives. In this phase of the project, SAVE introduced recycle bins to the local high school and students have already begun to collect their recyclable waste such as paper, plastic, metal and glass in a clean and organized manner.



Youth Camp Documentary Aired on Cypriot TV for First Time



Young Cypriots during a UNDP-ACT Multicultural Youth Camp

"Common Steps for the Next Day", a documentary film about the experience of young Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots working together through a multicultural youth camp program supported by USAID's ACT, was aired in its entirety on CyBC on March 2. The half-hour documentary was produced to showcase the experiences of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots building cooperation and trust through sports, art, peace development, volunteerism and cultural heritage projects across the island. The airing of the documentary on a Government of Cyprus-financed TV station widely watched on both sides of the dividing Green Line is an encouraging sign. Rarely are these types of documentaries given public venues on either side.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

SAVE

Photogrammetry work at the Saints Peter and Paul monument in Famagusta began on March 5 with expert teams from the US and the UK. Work continues to finalize the Famagusta Historic Trail map and guide as well as companion guides to cultural heritage sites for children. SAVE's Train the Trainers group returned from their study tour in Austin, TX, and Denver, CO, focused on the latest techniques and best practices in water management. SAVE organized a two-day interactive workshop for environmental experts, conservationists, engineers and technicians on "Field Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting" on Feb. 28-29. International marine turtle expert Monica Aureggi returned to the island to continue work on improving the data analysis and research protocols related to ongoing turtle conservation efforts. On Feb. 27, SAVE's GIS team organized its fifth user's group meeting, with a focus on land cover applications and participation from visiting expert Francois Smith.

ACT

The Cypriot Civil Society Strengthening Program training courses continued with the "Managing Staff and Volunteers in Civil Society Organizations" course, held in English in Nicosia and Turkish in Famagusta. The course will be taught in Greek in the upcoming week. USAID and UNDP-ACT representatives met with the Armenian community to discuss design aspects for the Armenian Church and Monastery, which the UNDP-ACT program will be restoring in the coming year.

EDGE

EDGE's tourism team continues work with the Buyukkonuk Eco-Village Tourism Association, including by mentoring other villages in the region, developing marketing materials including a website, and assisting in the preparation of the detailed proposals required to access EU/EC grant mechanisms. EDGE's trade team assisted the TC Chamber of Industry and several TC firms make strong showings at both the Berlin Fruitlogistica fair and the Dubai Gulfood show. Firms have returned with a better understanding of how to be effective at trade fairs but, more importantly, with solid business contacts and actual deals. Association building work continues with the TC Banks Association and on the next bankers training course, "Basic Banking". Along with three TC banking experts, EDGE's banking supervision team leader is attending a risk based regulation course at the UK's Financial Services Agency the week of March 3.

REAP

The Energy Professionals Association will hold its website launch on March 11. Energy expert John Tebbs will travel to Cyprus and begin work on transmission/distribution systems and processes in the coming week. This mission will follow on previous work in this area, including a feasibility study for power systems reintegration. REAP's Management Development Program organized a training course on "engineering project management."



Like pomegranates, capers offer Cypriot farmers a lucrative and water-wise alternative to current agricultural practices. In response to demand for technical expertise in this area, EDGE's Agribusiness Team organized a three-day, field-based capers training program for local producers, farmers, and agriculturalists March 3-5.

News from Nicosia

February 24

The Republic of Cyprus elected their 6th president since its independence, General Secretary of the Communist Party, Demetris Christofias. The election was viewed, in part, as a sign of dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Cyprus problem under incumbent President Papadopoulos, who was eliminated in the first of two election rounds. With a change in the ruling political party, the international community is gearing up to re-evaluate the conditions for a new round of settlement talks under the auspices of the UN.

February 29

Mark McCord took over as the new Chief of Party at EDGE, replacing Bryan Stirewalt.



OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.